
Mediterranean FADs fishery: an overview

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Résumé

Traditionally the small scale fleet on the central (Sicily, Malta, Tunisia) and western Mediterranean (Mallorca) targets dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) seasonally from summer to fall, deploying moored FADs and fishing with a special surrounding net. This fishery employs low technology, FADs being made with recycled materials. Drifting FADs are used opportunistically. The by-catch is composed by *Seriola dumerili* and *Naucrates ductor* which are commercialised. The catches are composed of 0-age fish, spawned in spring or early summer, with abundances fluctuating strongly depending on the recruitment and environmental parameters. The fish are marketed fresh with prices depending on abundance. The fishery management has different degrees of control depending on the country. The common measures are on effort control applying closed sessions, restricted access (registered boats) and spatial delimitations of FADs deployment. Recently in Mallorca some initiatives to keep the prices profitable have been developed based on self-regulation on the landings and product diversification.

Mots-Clés: review, Mediterranean, small scale

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